

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2309

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 21748

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CB, UN

SUBJECT: KHMER UN CREDENTIALS

REFERENCE: A) STATE 192437 B) STATE 197515

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES ON KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE I STRESSED YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST WHILE MAKING PRESENTATION REFTEL A. FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED PERSONAL SYMPATHY WITH YOUR CONCERN OVER PRECEDENT ASPECTS OF SEATING INSURGENT REGIME. HE STATED GOF WOULD CONSIDER MATTER "VERY CAREFULLY." END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES FITTED ME INTO HIS BUSY SCHEDULE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AN APPOINTMENT HE HAD WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD ON SEPTEMBER 13. I STRESSED YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE KHMER UN CREDENTIALS ISSUE DRAWING ON PARAS 3 THROUGH 9 OF REFTEL A.

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES SAID HE MUCH

APPRECIATED GETTING YOUR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. IT WAS ONE THAT HE HAD NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ADVISABILITY OF NOT ESTABLISHING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BY ADMITTING THE GRUNK TO UN MEMBERSHIP. HE THEN ASKED DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, FROMENT-MEURICE, FOR HIS VIEWS. THE LATTER ATTEMPTED TO INDICATE THERE WOULD NOT BE A PRECEDENT SINCE THE CHINESE SEAT HAD ALREADY CHANGED HANDS, BUT WAS COMPELLED TO AGREE THAT THE PRC WAS AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE GRUNK WAS NOT.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES THEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT THERE WAS MUCH DIFFERENCE IN THE APPROACH OF THE U.S. AND FRANCE. FROMENT-MEURICE INTERJECTED THAT WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE GRUNK THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, NAMELY, THAT OF ABSTENTION. THIS REMARK PROMPTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO ELABORATE ON THE FRENCH DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES, BUT HE STRESSED THAT BY NO MEANS WAS FRANCE IN SUPPORT OF A MOVE TO DISPLACE LON NOL AT THE UN.

4. I THEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POSITION FRANCE TOOK AND PARTICULARLY THE INFLUENCE THAT FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES COULD HAVE IN TALKING WITH OTHERS, ESPECIALLY FRANCOPHONE STATES, REGARDING THE ISSUE AND ADDED THAT A POLICY OF ABSTENTION IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD FAVOR THE SUPPORTERS OF THE GRUNK.

5. BECAUSE FROMENT-MEURICE WAS PRESENT I ALSO SPECIFICALLY CITED THE ARGUMENTS THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM HIM TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SEATING OF THE GRUNK WOULD ACTUALLY WORK TOWARD A SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE SINCE IT WOULD MAKE BOTH THE GKR AND THE U.S. MORE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE. I STATED FLATLY THAT SUCH REASONING WAS COMPLETELY ERRONEOUS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE ISSUE "VERY CAREFULLY."

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6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD A MEETING SCHEDULED WITH THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MY CALL.
IRWIN

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